

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this amendment claims 1, 4-6 and 10 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has based the rejection on Shimatani et al. Shimatani et al. sets a to-be-changed parameter in the initialization data (step S4 in Fig. 6) and searches the thus set parameter throughout the whole of the music composition (step S6). In order to cause the change to the initialization data to be effective, it is therefore indispensably necessary to set a data-change parameter at the initialization.

In contrast, as shown in applicants' Fig. 4, the present invention reads out the whole of the source musical composition data, and determines whether or not each of the performance parameters is constant throughout the whole of the musical composition. If any of the parameters is *not* constant (throughout the whole of the musical composition), such parameter is changed so as to become constant. Thus, to reiterate, the significant feature of applicants' invention resides in that the whole of the musical composition data is read out, and a determination is made from that data as to whether or not performance parameters (e.g., control codes) are constant. Part or all of the parameters are then changed, where necessary to make them constant.

In order to more fully distinguish the applicants' invention in this regard, the claims have been amended to expressly recite that the whole of source musical composition data is read out, and that performance parameters not found to be constant throughout the whole composition are rewritten. It is respectfully submitted that these revisions to the claims now distinguish the applications' invention from Shimatani et al, which does not

read out the state of the whole composition to determine the need for rewriting parameters, but instead relies on setting the to-be-changed parameter in the initialization step.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9 and 12 are allowed.

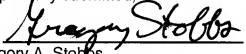
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 2552-000056/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 4, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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